

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. An apparatus for playing back first data having audio
2 information, visual information, or audio-visual information, the first data containing
3 second data, the apparatus comprising:
4 a reproduction processing circuit configured to produce the first data;
5 a data store configured to receive at least some of the first data;
6 a detecting circuit coupled to the data store and configured to process
7 data contained therein to produce a detection result, the detection result being based at
8 least on the second data; and
9 a control circuit configured to selectively output the first data based on
10 the detection result.

1 2. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a data selection
2 circuit configured to select a first data subset of the first data, the data selection circuit
3 coupled to deliver the first data subset to the data store, wherein the detecting circuit
4 processes the first data subset.

1 3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the capacity of the data store
2 is equal to or greater than the minimum size of the first data subset.

1 4. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the detecting circuit is further
2 configured to produce a signal indicating the completion of processing of the first data
3 subset, wherein the selection circuit selects, in response to the signal, a second data
4 subset of the first data, and wherein the second data subset replaces the first data
5 subset.

1 5. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the detecting circuit is further
2 configured to produce a signal indicating that the first data subset has been delivered
3 to the data store, and wherein the selection circuit selects, in response to the signal, a
4 second data subset from the first data for delivery to the data store.

1 6. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the first data is an ISO-
2 MPEG 2 formatted data stream, and wherein the first data subset is an I-picture.

1 7. The apparatus of claim 1 further including a data bus coupled
2 only between the detection circuit and the control circuit, wherein the detection circuit
3 produces a signal representative of the detection result, the signal being sent to the
4 control circuit via the data bus.

1 8. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the detection circuit produces
2 a signal representative of the detection result, the detection circuit further configured
3 to encode the signal using a decryption key, the control circuit further configured to
4 receive the encoded signal and to decode the signal using the decryption key.

1 9. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the detection circuit produces
2 a signal representative of the detection result, wherein the detection circuit and the
3 control circuit are further configured to exchange authentication data with each other,
4 and wherein the detection circuit is further configured to deliver the signal to the
5 control circuit when the detection circuit makes a positive determination that the
6 control circuit is permitted to receive the signal.

1 10. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the detection circuit is further
2 configured to encode the signal using the authentication data, and the control circuit is
3 further configured to receive the encoded signal and to decode the signal using the
4 authentication data.

1 11. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the detection circuit produces
2 a first signal when processing of data in the data store produces the detection result a
3 first predetermined number of times in succession, the control circuit selectively
4 outputting the first data in response to the signal.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the detection circuit,
2 subsequent to producing the first signal, produces a second signal when processing of
3 data in the data store produces a second detection result a second predetermined
4 number of times in succession, the control circuit selectively outputting the first data
5 in response to the first and second signals.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first data is ISO-MPEG 2
2 formatted.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the data store receives at least
2 some of the first data at a data rate equal to a data rate at which the reproduction
3 processing circuit produces the first data.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the data store is further
2 configured to output data contained therein at the same time it receives at least some
3 of the first data.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the data store receives at least
2 some of the first data at a first data rate equal to a data rate at which the reproduction
3 processing circuit produces the first data,

4 wherein the detecting circuit is further configured to produce a signal
5 indicating a second data rate, and

6 wherein the data store is further configured to output the data
7 contained therein at the second data rate in response to the second signal.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the detecting circuit is further
2 configured to receive data contained in the data store at a third data rate and process
3 the data to produce a detection result at a fourth data rate, wherein the fourth data rate
4 is equal to or greater than the third data rate.

1 18. An apparatus for playing back first data in an information
2 recording medium, the first data containing second data, the apparatus comprising:
3 a reproduction processing circuit configured to produce the first data;
4 a data store configured to receive at least some of the first data;
5 a detecting circuit coupled to the data store and configured to process
6 data contained therein to produce a detection result, the detection result being based at
7 least on the second data; and

8 a control circuit configured to selectively output the first data based on
9 the detection result and the type of the information recording medium.

1 19. A method for accessing first data having audio information,
2 visual information, or audio-visual information, the first data containing second data,
3 the method comprising:

4 receiving the first data from a data source;
5 storing the first data in a data store;

6 producing a detection result by processing data in the data store, the
7 detection result based at least on the second data;
8 selectively outputting the first data based on the detection result.

1 20. The method of claim 19 wherein selectively outputting is
2 further based on the type of the data source.

1 21. An apparatus for playing back first data having audio
2 information, visual information, or audio-visual information, the first data containing
3 second data, the apparatus comprising:
4 first means for providing the first data from a data source;
5 second means, coupled to the first means, for storing at least some of
6 the first data;
7 third means for producing a detection result, including means for
8 processing data stored in the second means; and
9 fourth means, operatively coupled to the third means, for outputting the
10 first data based on the detection result.